Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/AN:WBCOBB:TP APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES EB/AVP - MRS. GRAVATT EA/ANP - MR. LANGE

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R 121420Z FEB 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - RESUMPTION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: MELBOURNE 63

1. CONGEN IS REQUESTED ONCE AGAIN TO CONTACT ATG AND ADVISE THAT USG WISHES TO RESUME USER CHARGES TALKS ON MARCH 3 IN MELBOURNE. WE WISH OUR SCHEDULE WERE MORE FLEXIBLE BUT IT IS DICTATED BY A NUMBER OF RESTRAINTS AND OTHER OBLIGATIONS. FORTUNATELY US CHAIRMAN WILL BE IN AUSTRALIA ON OTHER BUSINESS WEEK BEGINNING FEBRUARY 24, SO IT SEEMS PARTICULARLY OPPORTUNE TO SCHEDULE FURTHER DISCUSSIONS ON THIS SENSITIVE ISSUE BETWEEN US THE FOLLOWING WEEK. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THERE MAY BE PROBLEMS BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE GOA COMMITTMENTS TO OTHER COUNTRIES WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF ATG WOULD AT LEAST FIND TIME FOR AN INITIAL MEETING WITH CHAIRMAN US DEL ON MARCH 3. WE TRUST THE GOA APPRECIATES THAT THE USDEL IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO SHOW MOVEMENT ON THIS

SUBJECT AND THAT FURTHER DELAY MAY BE SEIZED UPON BY THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK A RESOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM UNILATERALLY. IT CONTINUES TO BE OUR INTENTION TO WORK ON THIS MATTER BILATERALLY SO LONG AS THERE ARE

REASONABLE POSSIBILITIES OF REACHING AN AGREED SOLUTION. GOA COOPERATION IN ARRANGING NOW TO RESUME TALKS ON MARCH 3 WOULD BE MOST HELPFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE. INGERSOLL

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